

M.I.T. Cuts Agency Ties

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 26—

The Center of International Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology disclosed today that it would "reluctantly" sever connections with the Central Intelligence Agency at the end of June.

The agency helped to establish the center with a \$300,000 grant in 1951 and since then has supported much of its research, mostly in Communist affairs.

A spokesman for the center said it was decided a year ago that, "for practical and not moral reasons," no further contracts should be accepted from the C.I.A. Although the work supported by agency funds has done much good and has involved nothing improper, the relationship had been "misunderstood" and has "caused sufficient difficulty," he said.

Existing contracts are being

M.I.T. Research Center to Cut Its Ties With C.I.A. After June

Continued From Page 1, Col. 3

allowed to run their course but no further work will be performed with the agency's support after July 1, the spokesman said.

In its early years, the center performed a great deal of research work for the intelligence agency, supplying analyses of events and trends in the Communist world but insisting upon the right to publish the results of the work. In recent years, after faculty members and others criticized the arrangement, the number of C.I.A. projects is said to have been sharply restricted.

In the last two or three years, the spokesman said, the agency contributed no more than 15 per cent, or \$112,500, of the center's \$750,000 budget. The exact amounts are classified as secret by the agency, he said.

One early beneficiary of the agency's support was a research team on Soviet affairs headed by Prof. Walt W. Rostow, who later became chairman of the Policy Planning Council at the State Department and is now a special assistant to President Johnson.

Prof. Max Millikan, an assistant director of the intelligence agency in 1951-52, has been director of the center since 1952.

The authorities at M.I.T. have tried in recent days to make clear that they have not conducted any overseas operations and that the center's work in India and other nations to help promote economic development has not been supported by the intelligence agency.

Some "confusion" was caused, the spokesman explained, by

the disclosure that at least five C.I.A. agents worked among Michigan State University scholars on a foreign aid project in South Vietnam from 1955 to 1959.

Some embarrassment is also said to have been caused to M.I.T. scholars earlier in their dealings with foreign governments when it was disclosed that the agency had helped to create their center. Faculty opinion about the link was described as divided until Mr. Millikan passed word of the decision to accept no more research contracts with the agency.

The center's spokesman said the university had always protected itself adequately against direct involvement with or control of its work by the intelligence agency. It considered the research for the agency to be not only consistent with the traditions of academic freedom, he said, but also a fulfillment of the university's duty to contribute to the Government's intelligence "with a sma 'i'".

There has been a "rigid rule" that no field work be undertaken with C.I.A. funds, he said.

When it was decided in March 1965, to sever all connections, he added, there was thought to be no reason to withdraw abruptly. Thus, the last contracts, running through June, 1966, were honored, he said.

Individual scholars will continue to have the right to act as consultants to the agency or to accept any other kind of Government assignment. This right has been enjoyed by most American scholars, even those at institutions, such as Harvard, that have refused to accept direct contracts from the intelligence agency.